(b) if so, whether the former Chairman of the Electronics Commission has confessed that telecommunication policy has failed to provide for growth;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the new telecom policy has created a lot of confusion;

(d) if so, whether Government have failed to provide telecom policy guidelines;

(e) whethe the Prime Minister has recently held another round of detailed discussion in a bid to finalise the guildenes for entry of the private sector in basic telecom services; and

(f) if so, by when Government is likely to come forward with the new policy decision in regard to telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. The issue is under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (f) The question of New Telecom Policy creating a lot of confusion does not arise as it spells out the objectives and priorities in the Telecom Sector in clear terms. The detailed guidelens for implementation of the telecom. policy in basic vioce telephony are under consideration of the Government and the guidelines will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Implementation of New Telecom Policy

2671. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the modalities under which multinationals will operte in the new telecom policy recently envisaged by Government;

(b) by when the new policy is likely to become operational and telephone facility provided to all the villages;

(c) by when all the villages are likely to be facilitated with faultless communiction network at par with those of urban areas; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A decision is likely to be taken shortly regarding modalities for implementation of various provisions of the New Telecom Policy.

(c) As per national Telecom Policy, all the villages are to be provided with public telephone facility by March, 1997. The facilities would be at par with those of urban areas (like STD, Fax etc.).

(d) As on 31.7.94 about 1,42,000 villages have been provided with telephone facility. However, STD facility is not yet available in all these telephones.

Expansion of Telecom Network in the Country

2672. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated investigations into the suspected nexus between the international telecom giants and the telecom officials into the expansion and privatisation of telecom network in the country;

(b) if so, whether the investigations have been completed; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expenditure Incurred for providing Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

2673. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in Tamil Nadu for providing telephone